an air distributor being connected upstream of the outlet opening, said air distributor including a plurality of flat distribution components stacked in a spaced relation in the direction of air flow, said flat distribution components being constructed and arranged to distribute air between the inlet opening and the outlet opening, and

wherein the outlet opening exhibits a width of at least 150 [min] mm.

20. (Amended) A process for air conditioning a textile machine, comprising the steps of:

(a) generating a conditioning air stream in an area proximate the textile machine; and

(b) distributing the conditioning air stream towards the textile machine in stages so as to form a downwardly directed displacement-type flow towards threads in the textile machine, the displacement-type flow being a non-turbulent, uniform flow over a cross-sectional profile of the flow.

21. (Twice Amended) A process for air conditioning a textile machine, comprising the steps of:

(a) generating a conditioning air stream;

(b) directing the conditioning air stream to an air distributor assembly including a plurality of spaced-apart, air distribution components;

(c) moving the conditioning air stream through the air distributor assembly in

stages defined by the air distribution components so as to form a downwardly directed displacement-type flow towards threads in the textile machine, the displacement-type flow being a non-turbulent, uniform flow over a cross-sectional profile of the flow; and

D3

(d) distributing the displacement-type flow outwardly from the air distributor assembly towards the textile machine.

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22. (Amended) An air distributor assembly for air conditioning a textile machine, comprising:

(a) an air inlet adapted for communicating with a source of conditioning air flow;

(b) a first air distribution component downstream of said inlet for slowing the flow of conditioned air through said distributor assembly;

D4

(c) a second air distribution component spaced-apart from said first air distribution component and defining an air outlet downstream of said inlet to further slow the flow of conditioned air outwardly through said distributor assembly and in a direction of the textile machine; and

(d) wherein said first and second air distribution components cooperate to distribute the conditioned air flow to the textile machine in stages so as to form a downwardly directed displacement-type flow towards threads in the textile machine, said displacement-type flow being a non-turbulent, uniform flow over a cross-sectional profile of the flow.